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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DS-00
	EUR-01	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-04
	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01
	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	CORE-00	/048W	
				-----068358 181631Z /38			

P 181508Z NOV 93
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5063
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 04098

YAOUNDE FOR DATT
GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PGOV, RW
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SUBJECT: CIVILIANS KILLED IN DMZ

1. (C) SUMMARY. AN OVERNIGHT INCIDENT IN THE RUHENGERI SECTOR OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF ABOUT 40 PEOPLE, MOSTLY MRND PARTY MEMBERS. UNAMIR IS INVESTIGATING. ALL OF KIGALI IS ON EDGE HOPING THE INCIDENT, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN THE CONSEQUENCE OF AN RPF ATTACK, WILL NOT TRIGGER WIDESPREAD UNREST AND MASSACRES. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) GOVERNMENT-OWNED RADIO RWANDA AND THE

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PRIVATE STATION RTLM REPORTED 11/18 THAT AT LEAST 40 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED IN THE RUHENGERI SECTOR OF THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE NIGHT OF 11/17. THE ATTACK WAS LAID AT THE HANDS OF AN RPF COMMANDO UNIT. THE DEAD ARE REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OF THE MRND, THE PARTY OF THE PRESIDENT WHICH PREDOMINATES IN THIS REGION.

3. (C) A PRIVATE JOURNALIST TOLD DCM THAT KILLING OCCURRED IN THE COMMUNES OF KIDAHU, NKUMBA, CYERU, AND NYAMUGALI, JUST SOUTH OF THE RPF ZONE IN THE DMZ. HIS SOURCES, THE SOUS-PREFET OF RUHENGERI AND PEOPLE FROM THE AREA, TOLD HIM THAT THE DEAD--HE HAS A LIST OF 35 PERSONS--ARE PRIMARILY RECENTLY ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING A COMMUNE BOURGMASTER AND SEVERAL COUNSELORS. HE CLAIMED ALL OF THE DEAD SUFFERED BULLET WOUNDS. A MRND SOURCE TOLD DCM THAT AN MRND CANDIDATE FOR BOURGMASTER WAS ALSO KILLED.

4. (C) MINISTER OF DEFENSE TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD PROVIDED A HELICOPTER EARLY 11/18 TO GENERAL DALLAIRE,
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COMMAMDER OF THE UN FORCE (UNAMIR) RESPONSIBLE FOR
SECURITY IN THE DMZ. HE HAS SENT A TEAM TO INVESTIGATE.

5. (C) RPF LIAISON OFFICER FOR UNAMIR TOLD DCM THAT HE HAS SENT A COMMUNICATION TO RPF HEADQUARTERS TO GET THE RPF SIDE OF THE STORY. HE SAID HE WOULD BE MOST SURPRISED IF THE RPF HAD DONE THIS AS HE COULD SEE NO BENEFIT THE RPF COULD DERIVE FROM SUCH AN INCIDENT. HE SAID HE IS WORRIED THAT MASSACRES MIGHT FOLLOW.

6. (U) ELECTIONS OF LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE DMZ, CALLED FOR IN THE KINIHIRA AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST MAY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RPF, HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY CONTENTIOUS IN THE RUHENGERI COMMUNES. ELECTIONS OF COUNSELOR LEVEL OFFICIALS WERE COMPLETED LAST AUGUST, BUT THOSE OF COMMUNE BOURGMASTERS HAVE PROVED PROBLEMATIC. THEY WERE DELAYED ONCE WHEN THE JOINT COMMISSION CHARGED WITH ORGANIZING THE ELECTIONS BANNED FORMER OFFICIALS FROM STANDING AT THE INSISTANCE OF THE RPF. THIS WAS UNSATISFACTORY TO THE POPULATION AND TO THE MRND PARTY. CAMPAIGNING IS NOW IN FULL SWING WITH BOTH THE MRND AND THE RPF FIELDING CANDIDATES FOR THE IMPENDING ELECTIONS. (NOTE: ON THE BYUMBA SIDE OF THE DMZ, THE ELECTIONS WERE COMPLETED IN AUGUST. THERE ALL

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COMMUNES REELECTED THEIR FORMER BOURGMASTERS. BUT THE RPF PROVIDED STIFF COMPETITION IN ONE OR TWO CASES. AND THE RPF DID SUCCEED IN CAPTURING SOME OF THE SBCTOR-LEVEL AND COUNSELOR POSITIONS. END NOTE.)

7. (C) COMMENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR EXACTLY WHO DID WHAT TO WHOM IN THIS TRAGIC INCIDENT. ALTHOUGH THERE
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HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS OF SMALL INCIDENTS INSIDE THE DMZ, THIS ONE IS CLEARLY THE MOST SERIOUS SINCE THE PEACE ACCORD WAS SIGNED IN AUGUST. THE MANNER IN WHICH UNAMIR, GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, AND PARTY LEADERS HANDLE IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PEACE PROCESS. ONE ENCOURAGING NOTE FROM THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AM MRND STALWART: HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT DESPITE "INCIDENTS" SUCH AS THE OVERNIGHT MASSACRE IN THE NORTH, THE BASIS FOR PEACE HAS BEEN LAID AND IT IS THE POLICY THE GOVERNMENT WILL FOLLOW.
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